THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) (a) to (f) The information is being collected from the State Government.

Development of Drought Prone Areas

644. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring about sustained development of drought-prone and desert areas of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with steps to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether some amount has been earmarked for drought prone and desert areas of the country during the current year under proposed action plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof separately;

(e) whether some achievements are expected to be made on launching of these programmes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two area development programmes, Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) have been under implementation in identified areas of the country from 1973-74 and 1977-78 respectively. From 1.4.1995, on the basis of the recommendations of Professor Hanumantha Rao Committee, the above programmes and the Integrated Watershed Development Programme are being implemented with common guidelines.

(c) and (d) Rs. 229.60 crores and Rs. 99.28 crores have been allocated for the States under DPAP and DDP respectively during 1995-96.

(e) and (f) In the next five years from 1995-96 to 1999-2000, the DPAP is expected to develop about 4538 watershed projects of about 500 hectares each and DDP about 1629 watershed/ index catchment/cluster of villages projects.

Writing off Liabilities of Burnpur Plant of IISCO

645. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to write off Rs. 750 crores liabilities of the ailing Burnpur Plant of IISCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the SAIL has now informed Government that it is not longer interested in the modernisation of the IISCO; and

(d) if so, the reason for change in its earlier stand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No final decision has as yet been taken by Government on the issue of write off the liabilties of Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited (IISCO).

(c) and () No, Sir Since IISCO became a sick industrial company in terms of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act 1985 (as amended in February, 1994), a reference was made by the Board of Directors of IISCO to BIFR on 22nd June, 1994, as required under Section 15 of the Act for determination of measurs to be adopted with respect to the company.

Any scheme to be taken up for modernisation of IISCO will, therefore, have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.